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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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DEC - 9 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Dear Ms. Rachel Carson and the Environmental Control Board,

I have chosen to heat my home with an outdoor furnace for a number of good reasons:

- With the ever changing price of home heating oil, natural gas and LPG, heating with wood is an economical option – a furnace owner that heats with wood in an outdoor furnace can save thousands of dollars per year on home farm and small business heating costs.
- Heating with wood is consistent with the independent practices of Americans dating back to colonial times.
- Heating with an outdoor furnace eliminates the risks of fires and CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning associated with an indoor system because the appliance is located outside the home. Yearly, numerous homes are destroyed or damaged due to fires caused by indoor heating devices.
- Heating with wood results in no net increase in global warming gas emissions. Heating with oil, coal and natural gas is a significant source of global warming gas emissions.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has proposed a regulation for "outdoor wood fired furnaces that has the potential to impact my ability to continue utilizing my existing appliance, which I purchased 5 years ago, without any existing, or potential restrictions. I am strongly opposed to:

- Excessive chimney height requirements that are not scientifically based. These requirements are costly and may prevent some owners from using their appliances.
- Seasonal prohibition during May through September. Granted these are the warmer months, but there is still water to heat and this restriction is unreasonable.
- Opacity requirements for residential appliances, because this is purely a subjective visual observation and there are no pre-qualified specifications in place.

While it is foreseeable that furnace owners creating verifiable nuisances need to increase their chimney to alleviate complaints, it is unreasonable for the PA Department of Environmental Protection to retroactively impose restrictions (with

the exception of proper fuel use) on my existing outdoor furnace. My appliance was purchased, installed and operated in good faith prior to the drafting of this regulation.

I am requesting that you act now to assist me to preserve my rights and the rights of existing outdoor furnace owners in the state of Pennsylvania by opposing excessive and retroactive requirements of the proposed regulation. I am supportive of a state law requiring existing furnace owners to have to comply with proper fuel use requirements and for regulations regarding new installations to be reasonable. Are we also looking to regulate indoor heating appliances that exhaust their fumes via the chimney? In reality, what is the difference in emissions, between an outdoor furnace and a wood burning fireplace?

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12/5/09

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